



WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Gary Alexander
407 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Alexander:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Legislature about the State Board of Education's progress to put in place a new statewide accountability system. The State Board of Education believes that all students deserve an excellent and equitable education and that there is an urgent need to strengthen the system of continuous improvement in student achievement for all schools and districts. Today, one in every 14 students attends a low performing school in Washington.¹

In 2005, the Legislature charged the State Board of Education with developing criteria to identify schools and districts that are successful, in need of assistance, and those where students persistently fail, as well as to identify a range of intervention strategies and performance incentive systems.

Over the last two years the Board has worked with key stakeholders, citizens, and consultants examining the current patchwork of accountability systems in Washington, as well as other states, as it conducted its work through Board meetings, work sessions, and public outreach. Based on this work, the Board has developed a final framework for its accountability policy, which is stated in the attached resolution passed at the Board's most recent meeting on January 15, 2009.

We are pleased to see that the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance has adopted our accountability principles and we urge your adoption this session of the Task Force's key concepts - including stronger accountability. We intend to continue refining each element of our accountability framework as we work with various stakeholders. We will come back with a specific implementation proposal later this year for your consideration.

¹ Based on the State Board of Education's proposed accountability index

We would like to highlight a few key elements of the attached accountability framework:

- We believe that a new accountability system should go hand-in-hand with legislative action to redefine and properly fund Basic Education.
- We believe there needs to be one system of federal and state accountability.
- We plan to ask the Superintendent of Public Instruction to join us in asking the U.S. Department of Education to accept our framework in place of the current system for determining Annual Yearly Progress.
- We recognize the key role of local school boards in addressing student achievement and the need to build district capacity to assist their schools.
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The State Board of Education looks forward to talking with you in person about our accountability work. We appreciate the hard work you are doing on behalf of our children and public schools in Washington State.

Sincerely,



Mary Jean Ryan
Chair

cc: Governor Christine O. Gregoire
Mr. Randy Dorn
Ms. Judy Hartmann
Ms. Barbara McLain
Ms. Susan Mielke
Mr. Ben Rarick
Ms. Elise Greef
Mr. Dan Grimm

Attachment: SBE Accountability Resolution



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January 23, 2009

The Honorable Glenn Anderson
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504

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January 23, 2009

The Honorable Dale Brandland
203 Irv Newhouse Building
PO Box 40442
Olympia, Washington 98504-0442

Dear Senator Brandland:

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January 23, 2009

The Honorable Lisa Brown
307 Legislative Building
PO Box 40403
Olympia, Washington 98504-0403

Dear Senator Brown:

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January 23, 2009

The Honorable Frank Chopp
339C Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Chopp:

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January 23, 2009

Cheryl Chow
PO Box 34165
Seattle, Washington 98124

Dear Ms. Chow:

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The Honorable Bruce Dammeier
421 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Dammeier:

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The Honorable Richard DeBolt
335C Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative DeBolt:

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The Honorable Mark Ericks
203 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
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January 23, 2009

The Honorable Karen Fraser
404 Legislative Building
PO Box 40422
Olympia, Washington 98504-0422

Dear Senator Fraser:

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Christine O. Gregoire
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Legislature about the State Board of Education's progress to put in place a new statewide accountability system. The State Board of Education believes that all students deserve an excellent and equitable education and that there is an urgent need to strengthen the system of continuous improvement in student achievement for all schools and districts. Today, one in every 14 students attends a low performing school in Washington.¹²

In 2005, the Legislature charged the State Board of Education with developing criteria to identify schools and districts that are successful, in need of assistance, and those where students persistently fail, as well as to identify a range of intervention strategies and performance incentive systems.

Over the last two years the Board has worked with key stakeholders, citizens, and consultants examining the current patchwork of accountability systems in Washington, as well as other states, as it conducted its work through Board meetings, work sessions, and public outreach. Based on this work, the Board has developed a final framework for its accountability policy, which is stated in the attached resolution passed at the Board's most recent meeting on January 15, 2009.

We are pleased to see that the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance has adopted our accountability principles and we urge your adoption this session of the Task Force's key concepts - including stronger accountability. We intend to continue refining each element of our accountability framework as we work with various stakeholders. We will come back with a specific implementation proposal later this year for your consideration.

¹² Based on the State Board of Education's proposed accountability index

We would like to highlight a few key elements of the attached accountability framework:

- We believe that a new accountability system should go hand-in-hand with legislative action to redefine and properly fund Basic Education.
- We believe there needs to be one system of federal and state accountability.
- We plan to ask the Superintendent of Public Instruction to join us in asking the U.S. Department of Education to accept our framework in place of the current system for determining Annual Yearly Progress.
- We recognize the key role of local school boards in addressing student achievement and the need to build district capacity to assist their schools.
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The State Board of Education looks forward to talking with you in person about our accountability work. We appreciate the hard work you are doing on behalf of our children and public schools in Washington State.

Sincerely,



Mary Jean Ryan
Chair

cc: Mr. Randy Dorn
Ms. Judy Hartmann
Ms. Barbara McLain
Ms. Susan Mielke
Mr. Ben Rarick
Ms. Elise Greef
Mr. Dan Grimm

Attachment: SBE Accountability Resolution



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January 23, 2009

Dan Grimm
2816 10th Street Ct SE
Puyallup, Washington 98374

Dear Mr. Grimm:

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OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Kathy Haigh
431 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Haigh:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Legislature about the State Board of Education's progress to put in place a new statewide accountability system. The State Board of Education believes that all students deserve an excellent and equitable education and that there is an urgent need to strengthen the system of continuous improvement in student achievement for all schools and districts. Today, one in every 14 students attends a low performing school in Washington.¹⁴

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January 23, 2009

The Honorable Mike Hewitt
314 Legislative Building
PO Box 40416
Olympia, Washington 98504-0416

Dear Senator Hewitt:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Legislature about the State Board of Education's progress to put in place a new statewide accountability system. The State Board of Education believes that all students deserve an excellent and equitable education and that there is an urgent need to strengthen the system of continuous improvement in student achievement for all schools and districts. Today, one in every 14 students attends a low performing school in Washington.¹⁵

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OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Steve Hobbs
213 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40444
Olympia, Washington 98504-0444

Dear Senator Hobbs:

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January 23, 2009

The Honorable Janéa Holmquist
106B Irv Newhouse Building
PO Box 40413
Olympia, Washington 98504-0413

Dear Senator Holmquist:

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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January 23, 2009

The Honorable Mike Hope
439 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Hope:

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January 23, 2009

The Honorable Sam Hunt
438B Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Hunt:

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January 23, 2009

The Honorable Ross Hunter
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Representative Hunter:

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January 23, 2009

Bette Hyde
134 Marion Avenue North
Bremerton, Washington 98312

Dear Superintendent Hyde:

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January 23, 2009

The Honorable Fred Jarrett
409 Legislative Building
PO Box 40441
Olympia, Washington 98504-0441

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Mr. Dan Grimm

Attachment: SBE Accountability Resolution



WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Norm Johnson
414 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Johnson:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Legislature about the State Board of Education's progress to put in place a new statewide accountability system. The State Board of Education believes that all students deserve an excellent and equitable education and that there is an urgent need to strengthen the system of continuous improvement in student achievement for all schools and districts. Today, one in every 14 students attends a low performing school in Washington.²³

In 2005, the Legislature charged the State Board of Education with developing criteria to identify schools and districts that are successful, in need of assistance, and those where students persistently fail, as well as to identify a range of intervention strategies and performance incentive systems.

Over the last two years the Board has worked with key stakeholders, citizens, and consultants examining the current patchwork of accountability systems in Washington, as well as other states, as it conducted its work through Board meetings, work sessions, and public outreach. Based on this work, the Board has developed a final framework for its accountability policy, which is stated in the attached resolution passed at the Board's most recent meeting on January 15, 2009.

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²³ Based on the State Board of Education's proposed accountability index

We would like to highlight a few key elements of the attached accountability framework:

- We believe that a new accountability system should go hand-in-hand with legislative action to redefine and properly fund Basic Education.
- We believe there needs to be one system of federal and state accountability.
- We plan to ask the Superintendent of Public Instruction to join us in asking the U.S. Department of Education to accept our framework in place of the current system for determining Annual Yearly Progress.
- We recognize the key role of local school boards in addressing student achievement and the need to build district capacity to assist their schools.
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The State Board of Education looks forward to talking with you in person about our accountability work. We appreciate the hard work you are doing on behalf of our children and public schools in Washington State.

Sincerely,



Mary Jean Ryan
Chair

cc: Governor Christine O. Gregoire
Mr. Randy Dorn
Ms. Judy Hartmann
Ms. Barbara McLain
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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Claudia Kauffman
414 Legislative Building
PO Box 40447
Olympia, Washington 98504-0447

Dear Senator Kauffman:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Legislature about the State Board of Education's progress to put in place a new statewide accountability system. The State Board of Education believes that all students deserve an excellent and equitable education and that there is an urgent need to strengthen the system of continuous improvement in student achievement for all schools and districts. Today, one in every 14 students attends a low performing school in Washington.²⁴

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Curtis King
205 Irv Newhouse Building
P.O. Box 40414
Olympia, Washington 98504-0414

Dear Senator King:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Legislature about the State Board of Education's progress to put in place a new statewide accountability system. The State Board of Education believes that all students deserve an excellent and equitable education and that there is an urgent need to strengthen the system of continuous improvement in student achievement for all schools and districts. Today, one in every 14 students attends a low performing school in Washington.²⁵

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

Jim Kowalkowski
801 7th Street
Davenport, Washington 99122

Dear Superintendent Kowalkowski:

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Marko Liias
434 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Liias:

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Kelli Linville
204 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Linville:

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Marcie Maxwell
324 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Maxwell:

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Rosemary McAuliffe
403 Legislative Building
P.O. Box 40401
Olympia, Washington 98504-0401

Dear Senator McAuliffe:

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Joe McDermott
230 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40434
Olympia, Washington 98504-0434

Dear Senator McDermott:

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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January 23, 2009

The Honorable Eric Oemig
416 Legislative Building
PO Box 40445
Olympia, Washington 98504-0445

Dear Senator Oemig:

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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January 23, 2009

The Honorable Tina Orwall
332 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Orwall:

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Sincerely,



Mary Jean Ryan
Chair

cc: Governor Christine O. Gregoire
Mr. Randy Dorn
Ms. Judy Hartmann
Ms. Barbara McLain
Ms. Susan Mielke
Mr. Ben Rarick
Ms. Elise Greef
Mr. Dan Grimm

Attachment: SBE Accountability Resolution



WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Margarita Prentice
303 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40411
Olympia, Washington 98504-0411

Dear Senator Prentice:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Legislature about the State Board of Education's progress to put in place a new statewide accountability system. The State Board of Education believes that all students deserve an excellent and equitable education and that there is an urgent need to strengthen the system of continuous improvement in student achievement for all schools and districts. Today, one in every 14 students attends a low performing school in Washington.³⁴

In 2005, the Legislature charged the State Board of Education with developing criteria to identify schools and districts that are successful, in need of assistance, and those where students persistently fail, as well as to identify a range of intervention strategies and performance incentive systems.

Over the last two years the Board has worked with key stakeholders, citizens, and consultants examining the current patchwork of accountability systems in Washington, as well as other states, as it conducted its work through Board meetings, work sessions, and public outreach. Based on this work, the Board has developed a final framework for its accountability policy, which is stated in the attached resolution passed at the Board's most recent meeting on January 15, 2009.

We are pleased to see that the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance has adopted our accountability principles and we urge your adoption this session of the Task Force's key concepts - including stronger accountability. We intend to continue refining each element of our accountability framework as we work with various stakeholders. We will come back with a specific implementation proposal later this year for your consideration.

³⁴ Based on the State Board of Education's proposed accountability index

We would like to highlight a few key elements of the attached accountability framework:

- We believe that a new accountability system should go hand-in-hand with legislative action to redefine and properly fund Basic Education.
- We believe there needs to be one system of federal and state accountability.
- We plan to ask the Superintendent of Public Instruction to join us in asking the U.S. Department of Education to accept our framework in place of the current system for determining Annual Yearly Progress.
- We recognize the key role of local school boards in addressing student achievement and the need to build district capacity to assist their schools.
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The State Board of Education looks forward to talking with you in person about our accountability work. We appreciate the hard work you are doing on behalf of our children and public schools in Washington State.

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Skip Priest
122A Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Priest:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Legislature about the State Board of Education's progress to put in place a new statewide accountability system. The State Board of Education believes that all students deserve an excellent and equitable education and that there is an urgent need to strengthen the system of continuous improvement in student achievement for all schools and districts. Today, one in every 14 students attends a low performing school in Washington.³⁵

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Tim Probst
325 John L O'Brien Bldg
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Probst:

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Dave Quall
301 John L. O'Brien Building
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Quall:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Legislature about the State Board of Education's progress to put in place a new statewide accountability system. The State Board of Education believes that all students deserve an excellent and equitable education and that there is an urgent need to strengthen the system of continuous improvement in student achievement for all schools and districts. Today, one in every 14 students attends a low performing school in Washington.³⁷

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Attachment: SBE Accountability Resolution



WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Pam Roach
202 Irv Newhouse Building
PO Box 40431
Olympia, Washington 98504-0431

Dear Senator Roach:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Legislature about the State Board of Education's progress to put in place a new statewide accountability system. The State Board of Education believes that all students deserve an excellent and equitable education and that there is an urgent need to strengthen the system of continuous improvement in student achievement for all schools and districts. Today, one in every 14 students attends a low performing school in Washington.³⁸

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Sharon Santos
434A Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Santos:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Legislature about the State Board of Education's progress to put in place a new statewide accountability system. The State Board of Education believes that all students deserve an excellent and equitable education and that there is an urgent need to strengthen the system of continuous improvement in student achievement for all schools and districts. Today, one in every 14 students attends a low performing school in Washington.³⁹

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Attachment: SBE Accountability Resolution



WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Pat Sullivan
122G Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504-0600

Dear Representative Sullivan:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Legislature about the State Board of Education's progress to put in place a new statewide accountability system. The State Board of Education believes that all students deserve an excellent and equitable education and that there is an urgent need to strengthen the system of continuous improvement in student achievement for all schools and districts. Today, one in every 14 students attends a low performing school in Washington.⁴⁰

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Rodney Tom
PO Box 40482
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Senator Tom:

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WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • ROOM 253 • P.O. Box 47206 • 600 S.E. WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7206

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Joseph Zarelli
204 Irv Newhouse Building
PO Box 40418
Olympia, Washington 98504-0418

Dear Senator Zarelli:

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